

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. CON. RES. 109

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the ongoing persecution of 13 members of Iran's Jewish community.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 4, 2000

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was considered and agreed to

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress regarding the ongoing persecution of 13 members of Iran's Jewish community.

Whereas on the eve of the Jewish holiday of Passover 1999, 13 Jews, including community and religious leaders in the cities of Shiraz and Isfahan, were arrested by the authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran and accused of spying for the United States and Israel;

Whereas three of 13 defendants were tried in the first week in May 2000, in trials that were closed to all independent journalists, outside media, international observers, and family members;

Whereas no evidence was brought forth at these trials other than taped "confessions", and no formal charges have yet been filed;

Whereas Jews in Iran are prohibited from holding any positions that would give them access to state secrets;

Whereas the judge in the case also serves as prosecutor, chief investigator, and arbiter of punishment;

Whereas United States Secretary of State Albright has identified the case of the 13 Jews in Shiraz as “one of the barometers of United States-Iran relations”;

Whereas countless nations and leading international human rights organizations have expressed their concern for the 13 Iranian Jews and especially their human rights under the rule of law;

Whereas President Mohammad Khatami was elected on a platform of moderation and reform;

Whereas the United States has recently made goodwill overtures toward Iran, including lifting restrictions on the import of Iranian foodstuffs and crafts, promising steps toward the return of assets frozen since 1979, and easing travel restrictions, all in an attempt to improve relations between the two countries;

Whereas the World Bank is currently considering two Iranian projects, valued at more than \$130,000,000, which have been on hold since 1993; and

Whereas Iran must show signs of respecting fundamental human rights as a prerequisite for improving its relationship with the United States and becoming a member in good standing of the world community: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that the
- 3 President should—

1 (1) condemn, in the strongest possible terms,
2 the arrest of the 13 Iranian Jews and the unfair
3 procedures employed against them leading up to,
4 and during, their trials, and demand their immediate
5 release; and

6 (2) make it clear that—

7 (A) Iran's treatment of the Jews on trial
8 is a benchmark for determining the nature of
9 current and future United States-Iran relations,
10 and that concessions already made may be re-
11 scinded in light of Iran's conduct of these cases;
12 and

13 (B) the outcome of these cases will help
14 determine Iran's standing in the community of
15 nations, and its eligibility for loans and other fi-
16 nancial assistance from international financial
17 institutions.

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